

The success of the fire company is due in part to the leadership of President Richard Wolfe, who has been with the company for nine years. I would also like to recognize Rick Etter, a 29-year member who served as chair of the anniversary committee, and J.B. Anderson, a 43-year member. Their and exceptional service is appreciated.

I commend all the members of Leesburg Volunteer Fire Company for their bravery, dedication and willingness to put their lives on the line to protect our community. I wish them all the best as they celebrate this wonderful milestone.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF HARRIET THOMSEN

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Harriet Thomsen from Washington State, who will be recognized as an extraordinary volunteer by Friend to Friend America at this year's Volunteer Appreciation Day on November 23, 2013.

Harriet has been a volunteer and supporter of Friend to Friend since it was founded in 1974. The visitation program connects volunteers to elderly or disabled persons living in nursing homes, increasing the quality of their lives and establishing long-time friendships. Harriet has since been a strong advocate for the elderly community and has worked vigorously to maintain Friend to Friend's mission.

Harriet's passion for volunteerism stem from her first visit to a nursing home in her earlier years. She noticed that most homes provided dark activity rooms and were lacking sanitary equipment. Harriet immediately took charge and published an article in her local newspaper asking for donations like paint, chairs and lamps to improve assisted living facilities. She also mobilized women at her church, addressing the concerns she had about the unfortunate conditions some elderly must endure when living in a nursing home. She became invested and took it upon herself to positively change the living situation of seniors.

Although Harriet is highly praised for her selflessness and dedication at Friend to Friend, she also volunteers at the Children's Hospital Boutique in Kent, Washington and regularly cooks dinners for the homeless at Grace Lutheran Church. She is currently a retiree that spends more than 40 hours a week assisting others.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize Harriet Thomsen. Harriet is a true inspiration and an excellent example of a community leader. Her service to Washington State will be appreciated by many for years to come.

#### CONGRESSIONAL RECORD HONORING JOSEPH A. GATTO

#### HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Joseph An-

thony Gatto, a tireless educator and community artist who passed away, at the age of 78.

Born in Pueblo, Colorado on December 22, 1943, Joseph soon came to call California his home as World War II provided a large migration of workers to settle in the West Coast. Officially settling in East Hollywood, Joseph graduated from Fairfax High School where he excelled both academically and athletically. After turning 18 years of age, Joseph enlisted in the United States Army where he was stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington. Upon completion of his service to the military, Joseph returned to Los Angeles and graduated from California State University, Los Angeles and continued his education earning a Master's from Cal State LA and another Master's from Pepperdine University becoming the first in his family to graduate from college.

During his career he worked multiple jobs tirelessly as he was not only an educator in high schools during the day, having never missed a day of work during his 47 years, he also was a University professor on the weekends at Cal State LA and California State University Northridge. All a while serving as an assistant to his brother a concession manager at Dodger Stadium. In 1968, Joseph met his wife with whom he had three wonderful children; Nicole, Michael—a California Assemblyman, and my friend, Marianna, each of whom went on to do great things in their own right.

Joseph was awarded the "Bravo Award" as California Arts Teacher of the Year, in 1986. He was also honored consecutively at the White House by former President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and again in 1989 by former President George H.W. Bush. Following his success, he was honored yet again in 1990 as the California and Pacific Region Art Educator of the year. Joseph wrote many books throughout his life, many being used as classroom textbooks from Canada to Texas.

He will be remembered as a father, friend, and as an outstanding educator in his community. He will be missed by many.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all Members of the House to join me in a moment of silence to commemorate the memory of Joseph Anthony Gatto.

#### HONORING THE HETTINGER FAMILY

#### HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Hettinger family for their commitment to family solidarity. It is evident by their love and support shared between parents and children that this family deserves to be recognized for its commitment to one another.

Robert and Thesia Hettinger have been blessed with a large family, twelve children in all. The family wasn't always that large; however, after Robert's sister passed in 2006, the Hettinger family grew by seven. With ten children at home, Robert's sister's husband became overwhelmed when they learned of her cancer and Robert and Thesia were eager to help.

Robert works as a district network specialist for the Millard Public Schools. Thesia is currently a stay-at-home mother and certainly

keeps very busy with twelve children at home in Papillion. During the final months of her life, Robert and his sister's relationship evolved as they struggled to cope with her disease and living arrangements for all of the children. Soon after his sister passed, Robert and Thesia, along with their five children, made the decision to bring six of their nieces and nephews into their family. The four remaining children stayed with their father; however, they continue to play a significant role in the Hettinger children's lives.

All in all, the adoption process took three years and was finalized in 2009. Recently, the Hettinger's added another nephew to their family, bringing the grand total to twelve children. Miraculously, all of the children are very loving, respectful, and protective of one another and all share a genuine concern for helping others.

The Hettinger reserves Monday nights for family time. During this time they will all get together, which is extremely difficult to do with twelve children between ages seven and seventeen, to focus on their spiritual lives.

Robert and Thesia believe that to be good parents they must teach and lead by example. It is folks like Robert and Thesia who embody the spirit of strong communities. It is an honor to recognize them today.

#### "FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY": IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 21, 2013

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the memory of President John F. Kennedy. On the fiftieth anniversary of his tragic passing, it is important to remember all of the ideals that President Kennedy championed and the many Americans that have dedicated their lives to public service based on his example. In honor of President Kennedy, I submit this poem penned by Albert Carey Caswell.

#### FIFTY YEARS AGO THIS DAY

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

Fifty years ago this day . . .  
As a Nation cried and prayed . . .  
Fifty years ago this day . . .  
As up to Heaven,  
an American Hero made his way . . .  
Fifty years ago this day . . .  
as our Nation's hearts gave way!  
Fifty years ago this day . . .  
As Camelot,  
came to an end that day!  
As a Nation's great hopes were so torn away!  
As the tears so ran down her face . . .  
Fifty years ago today!  
For we will long remember,  
where we were so then there . . .  
Fifty years ago this day . . .  
When,  
we lost our most beloved JFK . . .  
As we all so knelt and prayed!  
As up towards Heaven a new Angel made his  
way . . .  
Fifty years ago this day . . .  
So young and so bright,  
who so fought to fight . . .  
To Save The World!  
In World War II,  
aboard P.T. 109 all in his most heroic hue  
. . .